



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,508	07/24/2003	Mohsen D. Shabana	GP-302538	1966
7590	05/18/2005			EXAMINER GORDON, STEPHEN T
KATHRYN A MARRA General Motors Corporation Legal Staff, Mail Code 482-C23-B21 P.O. Box 300 Detroit, MI 48265-3000			ART UNIT 3612	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 05/18/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/626,508	SHABANA ET AL.
	Examiner Stephen Gordon	Art Unit 3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-5,7-12 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,6,13 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 3-5, 7-12, and 14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9-23-04.
2. Applicant should note, while a complete action on the merits is not contained herein for withdrawn claims 10 and 11, in an effort to expedite prosecution, the following is noted. After a very cursory review of claims 10 and 11, it appears these claims may not define an embodiment consistent with the base claim. In other words, while the base claim covers multiple ones of the disclosed embodiment, it may not cover or be consistent with the embodiment and details recited in instant claims 10 and 11.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1, 2, 6, 13, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 02/45996.
'996 teaches an adjustable vehicle armrest including an armrest support portion (i.e. see the support portion of element 2) pivotally mounted between a horizontal first use position and a second vertical stowed position as broadly claimed – see figure 1a.

Regarding claim 1 as newly amended, rotation is downward as recited.

Regarding claim 2, note motor 4.

Regarding claim 6, the support portion is deemed positionable as broadly claimed.

Regarding claim 13, note mounting portion which includes teeth 204 and is mounted at 202.

Regarding claim 17, the armrest defines a module as broadly claimed.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/45996 in view of Mysliwiec et al.

'996 teaches an adjustable vehicle door mounted armrest including an armrest support portion (i.e. see the support portion of element 2) pivotally mounted between a horizontal first use position and a second vertical stowed position as discussed above regarding claim 1.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, '996 fails to teach that the armrest is flushly mounted in the door in the stowed position or that the armrest fits flushly in a door recessed portion in the stowed position.

Mysliwiec et al teaches a vehicle door mounted armrest 20 which is movable between a first horizontal use position and a vertical stowed position wherein in the stowed position, the armrest is stored flushly within a recessed portion of the door – see figure 1 etc.

In order to provide a more aesthetically pleasing appearance and/or to better prevent damage to the armrest support portion by recessing it in a protective pocket, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art provide a door recess for flushly receiving the armrest support portion of '996 when in the stored position in view of the teachings of Mysliwiec et al.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/45996 in view of 2001/0052715 to McAndrew et al.

'996 teaches an adjustable vehicle door mounted armrest including an armrest support portion (i.e. see the support portion of element 2) pivotally mounted between a

horizontal first use position and a second vertical stowed position as discussed above regarding claim 1.

Regarding claims 18 and 19, '996 fails to teach that the support portion has at least one control device wherein the control device includes one of the listed elements of instant claim 19.

McAndrew et al teaches an adjustable armrest system defining an armrest portion which includes a pivotable portion 40. The portion 40 includes at least a mirror control 50.

In order to allow for convenient access to a control device, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to locate at least a mirror control device on the pivotable armrest portion of '996 in view of the teachings of McAndrew et al.

8. Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejected claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 3612

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gordon whose telephone number is (571) 272-6661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


5-12-05
Stephen Gordon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612

stg